

## The Dark Sky Preserve

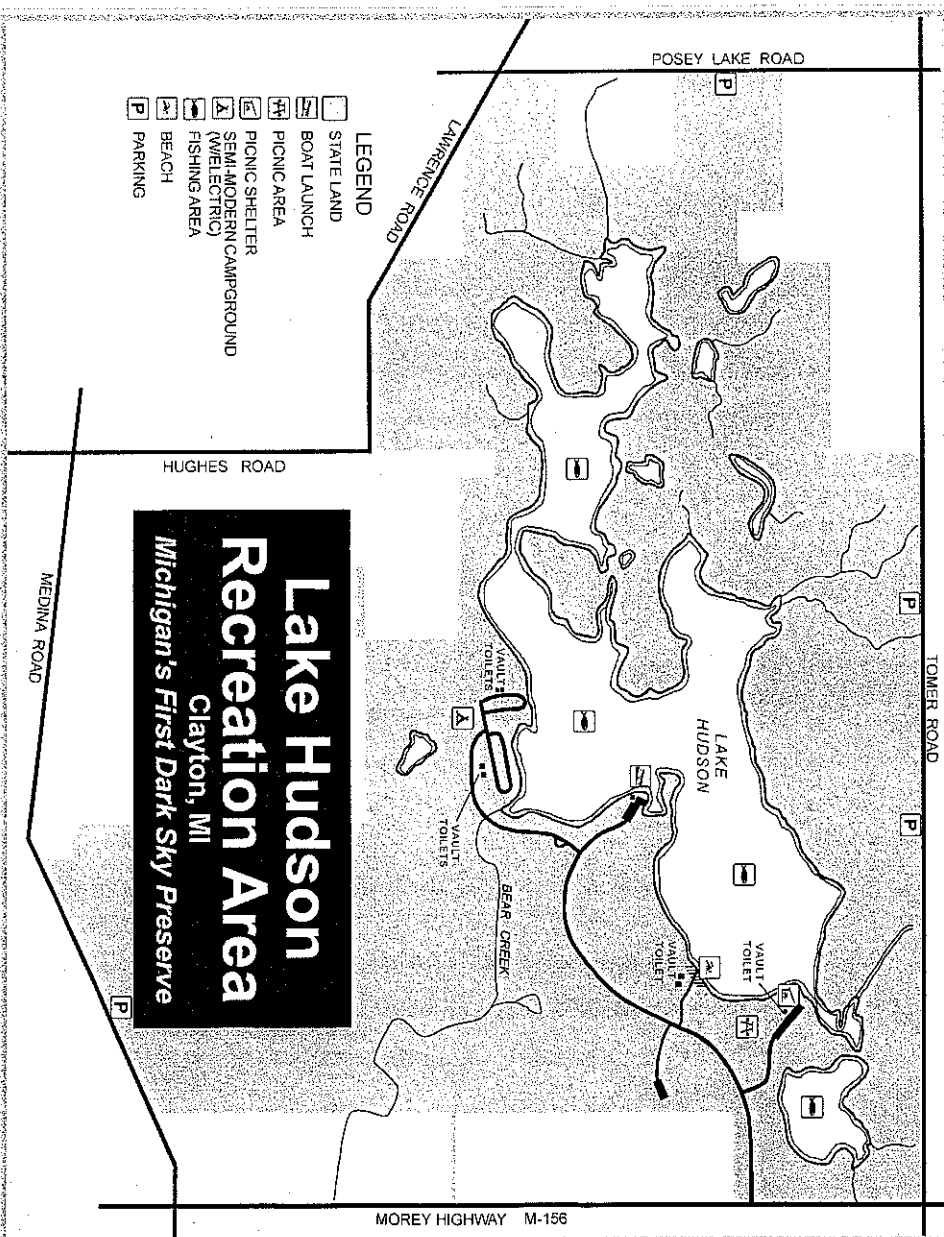
With the passage of Michigan Public Act 57, 1993 (MCL 322.821-826), Michigan became the first state in the nation to designate a tract of public land as a "Dark Sky Preserve." Night time lighting is controlled with the intent of preserving an area for enjoyment of the night sky.

In creating the Dark Sky Preserve at Lake Hudson State Recreation Area near Clayton, Michigan, the Michigan Legislature set up a demonstration project to show that preserving night skies for enjoyment is fully compatible with management for other recreational uses.

The legislation requires that outdoor lighting within a dark sky preserve does not unreasonably interfere with nighttime activities that require darkness, including enjoyment of the night sky, nighttime photography and wildlife photography. Such permanent lighting as is deemed necessary has to be directed downward and provided by fully shielded fixtures, with motion sensor fixtures wherever practical.

The legislation places no restrictions on light use by park users, who are asked to use nighttime lighting in moderation, arrive with headlights on low beam, and use courtesy in dealings with others.

By managing for dark night skies as well as other recreational activities, showing that such management has positive recreational and use benefits for public lands, it is hoped that Lake Hudson can be a model for other dark sky preserves in other area of the country.



**Lake Hudson  
Recreation Area**  
Clayton, MI  
Michigan's First Dark Sky Preserve

Lake Hudson, like all other Michigan State Parks and Recreation Areas, requires a daily or annual Motor Vehicle Permit for entry.

Permits are available at the park contact station, when open, or at Knight's Grocery, 1 1/2 miles north of the entrance at the corner of M-34 and M-156.

Annual permits issued elsewhere in the state are also good at Lake Hudson.

*For more information about the park or to get night time use permission contact the Park Manager at:*

**W. J. HAYES STATE PARK**  
1220 WAMPLER'S LAKE ROAD  
ONSTED MI 49265  
Phone # (517) 467-7401

*For camping reservations call:*  
**1-800-44PARKS**